CIRCULAIRE AU CLERGE.

Montréal 14 Février 1871.

Monsieur,

Le Décret de la S. C. des Rites que je vous transmets dans le Mandement ci-joint, renferme de si puissants motifs pour encourager la dévotion à St. Joseph que ce serait vraiment peine perdue que de vouloir y rien ajouter. D'ailleurs, je sais que vous trouverez dans votre cœur de quoi satisfaire au besoin qui vous presse de travailler à répandre le culte de ce bon saint.

Le Décret est accompagné d'une lettre à tous les Evêques du monde. Elle tiendra lieu de la Circulaire que j'aimerais à vous adresser, pour vous inviter à travailler avec zèle à mettre le dit Décret à exécution.

Vous allez donc prendre pour vous ce que le St. Père fait adresser à tous les Evêques du monde ; et vous en conclurez qu'en vous écrivant des Circulaires presqu'à chaque Mandement que je vous adresse, je me conforme à l'exemple du Père Commun.

Je n'ai qu'une chose à vous faire observer : serait-il opportun et serait-il possible de demander que la fête de St. Joseph devienne de précepte ? Veuillez bien en conférer avec vos confrères et me transmettre votre opinion.

Je suis bien cordialement

Monsieur,

Votre très-humble et dévoué serviteur,

IG. EV. DE MONTRÉAL.

DECREE

URBIS ET ORBIS

As Almighty God appointed Joseph son of the Patriarch Jacob over all the land of Egypt to save corn for the people, so when the fulness of time was come, and He was about to send on earth His only-begotten Son, the Saviour of the world, He chose another Joseph of whom the first Joseph had been the type, and whom He made the Lord and chief of His household and possession and guardian of His choicest treasures. So also He espoused to Himself the Immaculate Virgin Mary, of whom was born by the Holy Ghost Jesus Christ Our Lord, who has before men deigned to be reputed the Son of Joseph, and was subject unto him. And Him, so many Kings and Prophets had desired to see, Joseph not only saw, but conversed with and embraced with paternel affection, and kissed, and most sedulously nourished, even Him whom the faithful were to receive as the Bread that came down from Heaven, that they might obtain eternal life. On account of this sublime dignity which God conferred on His most faithful servant, the Church has always most highly honoured and praised the most Blessed Joseph next to his Spouse, the Virgin Mother of God, and has besought his intercession in times of trouble. And now that in these most troublous times the Church is beset by enemies on every side, and is weighed down by heavy calamities, so that ungodly men imagine the gates of hell to have at length prevailed against her, therefore, the Venerable Prelates of the Catholic world have presented to the Sovereign Pontiff their own petitions and those of the Faithful committed to their charge, praying that he would vouchsafe to constitute Saint Joseph Patron of the Catholic Church. They also renewed still more earnestly this their prayer and desire at the Sacred Œcumenical

Council of the Vatican. Therefore our most Holy Lord, Pius IX, Pope, being moved by the recent mournful events, has been pleased to comploy with the desires of the Prelates, and to commit to Saint Joseph's most powerful patronage Himself and all the Faithful, and has declared Saint Joseph PATRON OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH; and has commanded his festival, occurring on 19th day of March, to be celebrated for the future as a Double of the First Class, but yet without an Octave on account of Lent.

Finally, He has ordained that on this day sacred to the Blessed Virgin Mother of God and her most chaste Spouse S. Joseph, a declaration to that effect by this present Decree of the Sacred Congregation of Rites be then published. All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

The 8th day of Decembre, 1870.

Constantine, Bishop of Ostia and Velletri,

C. Cardinal PATRIZI, *Prefet of the Sacred Cong.*

Loco † Sigilli — D. Bartolinl, *Secretary.*

Décret de la S. Congrégation des Indulgences, au sujet des exercices en l'honneur de Saivt-Joseph durant le mois de Mars.

URBIS ET ORBIS.

Cum in pratrocinio S. Josephi sponsi B. M. V., maxima populo christiano juvaminis et præsidii spes in dies effulgeat, SS. D. N. Pius IX Papa quamplurium fidelium votis benigne annuens, per rescriptum secretariæ brevium die 12 junii 1855, concessit omnibus christifidelibus peragen-

tibus integro mense martio pium exercitium, quod in libro Romæ impresso continetur, cui titulus *considerazioni delle virtu del S. Patriarcha Giuseppe a dedicargli il mese di marzo :* indulgentiam trecentum dierum quolibet die, plenariam vero in uno dierum mensis ad arbitrium eligendo, quo confessi et sacra communione refecti, juxta mentem Sanctitatis Suæ oraverint.

Nunc vero idem Sanctissimus, ut erga tantum celestem patronum devotio magis magisque augeatur, et illa precationis methodus facilius ac latius propagetur, in audientia diei 27 aprilis 1865 habita ab infrascripto Cardinali Præfecto, clementer indulsit ut easdem indulgentias universi Christifideles lucrari possint, dummodo pium aliquod precum ac virtutum exercitium per integrum mensem martium peregerint, ad instarillarum quæ mese maio in honorem B. M. V. solent persolvi, servato in reliquis tenore primæ concessionis. Voluitque Sanctitas Sua has indulgentias animabus fidelium defunctorum per modum suffragii posse applicari ; et perpetuis futuris temporibus absque ulla Brevis expeditione valituras.

Datum Romæ ex secretaria S. C. Indulgentiarum die 27 aprilis 1865.

Fr. Antonius M. Card. PANEBIANCO, *Præfectus.*

L. S. A. Colombo, *Secretarius.*